(MR. CHAIRMAN)

DEMAND NO. 10.—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

19. *General Administration.*

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,97,23,000 including the sums already voted on account be granted to the Government to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the financial year for the period ending 31st day of March 1969, in respect of 'General Administration'."

DEMAND NO. 11.—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

21. *Administration of Justice.*

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,41,40,000 including the sums already voted on account be granted to the Government to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the financial year for the period ending 31st day of March 1969, in respect of 'Administration of Justice'."

MR. CHAIRMAN.—There is a small item of work. If the hon. Members are ready to sit for about five minutes, we can accommodate the request of Sri Gangadhar. He has given a call-attention notice and the Hon'ble Minister for Civil Supplies Sri Jatti is ready to reply.

HON. MEMBERS.—Yes, we shall sit a little more.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

SRI B. P. GANGADHAR.—I call the attention of the Minister for Food and Civil Supplies to the acute scarcity of Food stuffs in Kasaba and Bellavi Hoblies in Tumkur Taluk.

SRI B. D. JATTI (Minister for Food and Civil Supplies).—The seasonal conditions in Tumkur District have not been satisfactory, and some parts of the District are reported to be more severely affected than others. Most of the tanks have dried up, there has been failure of crops. The availability of foodgrains in the open market is, however, quite good and the rates of foodgrains have also come down during the

last fortnight. The prevailing market rates of the several foodgrains are as follows :—

		Wholesale rate (Per Quintal) Rs.	*Retail rate* (Per Quintal) Rs.
1. Ragi	...	85	90
2. Rice I sort	...	125 to 130.	130 to 140
3. Rice II sort	...	115 to 120	120 to 125
4. Jowar	...	80 to 85	90

2. The allotments of foodgrains to the District have been maintained at a reasonable level for the past several months, and the quantities permitted to be utilised every month are as follows :—

		Foodgrains in tonnes
1. Rice	...	125
2. Wheat	...	115
3. Milo	...	335
4. Other foodgrains	...	200
		775

3. Arrangements are made every month to ensure that the quantity of foodgrains permitted to be utilised, is actually moved to the District from different sources. Thus wheat and milo were moved from both Madras and Bangalore, and jowar and bajra were moved from Gulbarga District. A watch is being maintained to ensure that movement takes place according to schedule. Accordingly, for March 1968 also, special movements have been arranged from Bangalore Depots in order to ensure that the required stock for March 1968 is available in the District. The following is the movement programme for March 1968, of the several foodgrains :

		Quantity of tonnes	
1. Millo	...	500	from Madras Harbour
2. Bajra	...	560	from Gulbarga
3. Jowar	...	225	from Gulbarga
4. Milo (from Bangalore)	...	350	from Bangalore
		1,635	
5. Wheat	...	110	from Madras Harbour
		1,745	This quantity is being moved in addition to the above 1635 tonnes.

(SRI B. D. JATTI)

4. Monthly permitted utilisation of the District foodgrains, other than rice and wheat, is at present 535 tonnes, against which a quantity of 1,635 tonnes of foodgrains, other than rice and wheat, is planned to be moved to the District during the current month as indicated. This would ordinarily suffice for permitted utilisation for more than two months. However, since the Deputy Commissioner, Tumkur, has reported that due to low purchasing power, the poorer sections of the population have no financial capacity to purchase foodgrains in the open market, the Deputy Commissioner would be permitted to issue additional quantities of foodgrains with reasonable limits, to meet the situation and any such reasonable excess over the permitted utilisation resulting there from would be ratified. It is expected that since substantial stocks are being moved, it would be possible for us to meet the situation effectively.

5. Scarcity relief works have also been taken up in the badly affected areas, to provide employment and wages. A sum of Rs. 6 lakhs is likely to be spent by the end of March on these works, and a provision of Rs. 8 lakhs has been proposed for 1968-69. There is no dearth of works and the Government is organising them wherever necessary. An emergency feeding programme, to provide a nutritious mid-day meal to children in the age group 0-5, and to expectant and nursing mothers, has also been sanctioned, and will be in operation shortly.

MR. CHAIRMAN.—The House stands adjourned and will meet again on Thursday the 28th March at 9-30 A.M.

The House adjourned at Fifty-five Minutes past Six of the Clock to meet again at Thirty Minutes past Nine of the Clock on Thursday the 28th March 1968.

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